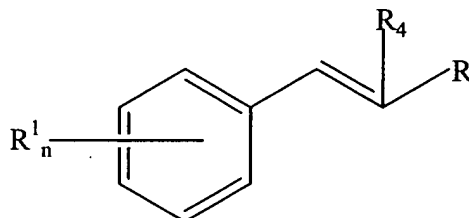


AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

This listing of the claims replaces all prior versions and listings of the claims in the subject application.

Listing of Claims:

1. (Previously cancelled)
2. (Currently amended) A method for providing a susceptible plant with sustained resistance to pathological microorganisms, said method comprising:
administering to said plant a nonphytotoxic composition comprising at least one aromatic compound having the formula



wherein R represents -CHO, -CH₂OH, -COOH, or -COOR₅; n is an integer from 0 to 3; each R¹ represents -OH, or an organic substituent containing from 1 to 10 carbon atoms and from 0 to 5 heteroatoms, wherein the total number of carbon and heteroatoms in all R¹ substituents is no more than 15; and R₄ represents -H or an organic constituent containing from 1 to 10 carbon atoms; and R₅ represents an organic substituent containing from 1 to 10 carbon atoms and from 0 to 5 heteroatoms; and wherein said composition is free of antioxidants other than said at least one aromatic compound.

6. (Previously presented) The method according to claim 2, wherein said aromatic compound is one or more aromatic aldehydes selected from the group consisting of cinnamic aldehyde, alpha-hexyl cinnamic aldehyde, α -amyl cinnamic aldehyde, and coniferyl aldehyde.

7. Please cancel Claim 7.

8. (Currently amended) The method according to Claim 741, wherein said-polymer is beeswax or carnauba wax.

9 to 14. (Previously cancelled)

15. (Currently amended) The method according to Claim 72 or 8, wherein said composition further comprises a surfactant.

16 to 20. (Previously cancelled)

22. (Currently amended) The method according to claim 715, wherein said pathological microorganisms are selected from the group consisting of soil-borne pathogens.

23. Please cancel claim 23.

24. (Currently amended) The method according to claim 722, wherein said administering to said plant consists of application by foliar spray.

25. (Previously added) The method according to Claim 15 wherein said surfactant is Tween 80 or saponin.

26. (Currently amended) A method for providing a susceptible plant with sustained resistance to pathological microorganisms, said method comprising:

administering to said plant a nonphytotoxic composition comprising one or more aromatic aldehydes selected from the group consisting of cinnamic aldehyde, alpha-hexyl cinnamic aldehyde, α -amyl cinnamic aldehyde, and coniferyl aldehyde, wherein ~~and~~ said composition is free of antioxidants other than said one or more ~~aldehyde~~aromatic aldehydes.

27. Please cancel claim 27.

28. (Currently amended) The method according to Claim ~~26~~42, wherein said polymer is beeswax or carnauba wax.

29. Please cancel claim 29.

30. (Currently amended) The method according to Claim 26, wherein said ~~green~~ plant is selected from the group consisting of a rose, a grape, a tomato, and a bell pepper.

31. (Previously added) The method according to Claim 26, wherein said composition further comprises a surfactant.

32. (Previously added) The method according to Claim 31 wherein said surfactant is Tween 80 or saponin.

33. (Previously added) The method according to Claim 26, wherein said composition further comprises a salt of a polyprotic acid.

34. (Previously added) The method according to Claim 33, wherein said salt of a polyprotic acid is sodium bicarbonate.

35. (Currently amended) The method according to Claim 6, wherein said at least one aromatic compound is selected from the group consisting of alpha-hexyl cinnamic aldehyde, α -amyl cinnamic aldehyde, and coniferyl aldehyde.

36. (Currently amended) The method according to claim ~~741~~, wherein said pathological microorganisms are selected from the group consisting of fungi.

37. (Currently amended) The method according to Claim 26, wherein said one or more aromatic ~~aldehyde is~~aldehydes are selected from the group consisting of alpha-hexyl cinnamic aldehyde, α -amyl cinnamic aldehyde, and coniferyl aldehyde.

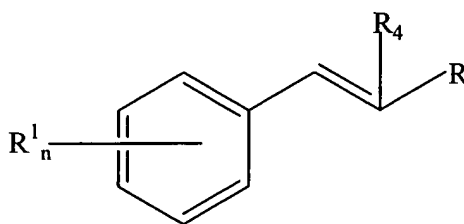
38. (Currently amended) The method according to Claim 26, wherein said pathological ~~organisms~~microorganisms are selected from the group consisting of soil borne pathogens.

39. (Currently amended) The method according to Claim 26, wherein said pathological ~~organisms~~microorganisms are selected from the group consisting of fungi.

40. (New) The method according to Claim 2, wherein said at least one or more aromatic compounds is α -hexyl cinnamic aldehyde.

41. (New) A method for providing a susceptible plant with sustained resistance to pathological microorganisms, said method comprising:

administering to said susceptible plant a nonphytotoxic composition comprising at least one aromatic compound having the formula



wherein R represents -CHO, -CH₂OH, -COOH, or -COOR₅; n is an integer from 0 to 3; each R¹ represents -OH, or an organic substituent containing from 1 to 10 carbon atoms and from 0 to 5 heteroatoms, wherein the total number of said carbon atoms and heteroatoms in all R¹ substituents is no more than 15; R₄ represents -H or an organic constituent containing from 1 to 10 carbon atoms; and R₅ represents an organic substituent containing from 1 to 10 carbon atoms and from 0 to 5 heteroatoms; and wherein said composition is free of antioxidants other than said at least one aromatic compound and said at least one aromatic compound is microencapsulated in a polymer that releases said aromatic compound.

42. (New) The method according to claim 41, wherein said at least one aromatic compound is selected from the group consisting of cinnamic aldehyde, alpha-hexyl cinnamic aldehyde, α-amyl cinnamic aldehyde, and coniferyl aldehyde.

43. (New) A method for providing a susceptible plant with sustained resistance to pathologic organisms, said method comprising:

administering to said plant a nonphytotoxic composition comprising

one or more aromatic aldehydes selected from the group consisting of cinnamic aldehyde, alpha-hexyl cinnamic aldehyde, α -amyl cinnamic aldehyde, and coniferyl aldehyde, wherein said composition is free of antioxidants other than one or more aromatic aldehydes and said one or more aromatic aldehydes are microencapsulated in a polymer that releases said one or more aromatic aldehydes, and wherein said pathologic organisms are selected from the group consisting of thrips, aphids, spider mites, arachnids, nematodes, and leafhoppers.

44. (New) The method according to claim 43, wherein said polymer is beeswax or canauba wax.